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Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011

The day's headlines in your inbox by 11 a.m. daily



Kaldenberg Consulting

State universities' climate report outlines climate change

A report written by researchers from the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa outlines a number of factors the Legislature should consider related to climate change.

The report, "Climate Change Impacts on Iowa," was commissioned by the Iowa Legislature in April 2009 and presented by the Iowa Climate Change Impacts Committee to the Iowa General Assembly and Gov. Chet Culver on Jan. 1, 2011. The complete report is available at www.iowadnr.gov/iccac/files/completereport.pdf.

The report recommends legislators should:

- Consider the financial and human costs of increasing extreme rain events and other climate trends when making policy and appropriations decisions.
- Protect Iowa's soil, water quality and agriculture against climate change.
- Support programs that enhance wildlife habitat and restore public and private lands.
- Designate the Iowa Department of Public Health to report annually on the consequences of a changing climate on Iowans' health.
- Support federal highway construction standards that consider the effects of climate change.
- Authorize the Iowa Insurance Division to periodically issue reports on changing risks, property insurance costs and climate-related claims.



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Coming Events

Jan. 6
Educational Recruiter Open Interview Session from the ITT Technical Institute 5:30 p.m. at 735 Queen Ct. SW, Cedar Rapids. Interview is open to all interested candidates. Contact hvanderheyden@itt-tech.edu or call 319-297-3400 to RSVP or for more information.

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- Fund continuing research on climate change and its affect on Iowans.

The report also suggests that it may be even more important for individuals, businesses and government to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby mitigate future climate change than to adapt to climate change.

"Iowa produces among the highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per capita, but Iowa also has the capacity to benefit economically by reducing those emissions through increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources," Jerry Schnoor, co-director of UI's Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research, stated in the report.



Iowa leading indicators rise

The Iowa Leading Indicators Index rose to 102.4 in November from 101.6 in October. The Iowa non-farm employment coincident index increased 0.04 percent during November, the fifth consecutive monthly increase.

The index's value increased 0.8 percent in November, the 14th consecutive monthly increase and the largest since April. During the six-month span through November, the index rose 3.6 percent (an annualized rate of 7.2 percent). The six-month diffusion index (value of 75.0) reflects an increase of 0.05 percent or greater over the last half year in six of the eight components, with the yield spread and new residential building permits experiencing a drop exceeding 0.05 percent over that time.

In November, seven of eight Iowa Leading Indicators Index components contributed positively. The positive contributors were diesel fuel consumption, the agricultural futures profits index, average weekly manufacturing hours, the Iowa stock market index, unemployment insurance claims (inverted), new residential building permits, and the national yield spread. The new orders index was the one negative contributor.

Wellmark Foundation awards grant to prevent falls in Johnson County

A coalition of local organizations initiated by Johnson County Livable Community (JCLC) has received an award from Wellmark Foundation for "Sure Steps" Fall Prevention Program. The \$115,415 grant is for a

two-year period.

According to research by the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center and Iowa Department of Public Health, falls are responsible for 83.7 percent of all injury-related hospitalizations for persons 65 and older in Johnson County.

In addition to JCLC, the collaborative prevention is led by Elder Services Inc., Heritage Area Agency on Aging, Johnson County Public Health, UI College of Nursing Faculty Practice House Calls, UI Geriatric Education Center, UI Injury Prevention Research Center and the Visiting Nurse Association. Sure Steps calls for a public awareness campaign that includes traditional media outlets, social media websites and multiple presentations throughout the grant period.

JCLC aging specialist Mary Willie wrote the grant application and will administer and coordinate the Sure Steps efforts. The coalition will implement a five-faceted prevention plan targeting Johnson County's urban and rural home-dwelling older adult population. The two-year program will coordinate efforts for in-home service and health-care providers, acute care personnel, family care givers and older adults.



ICCA announces arts and cultural advocate awards

The Iowa Cultural Corridor Alliance (ICCA) board of directors announced Tuesday that Mark Ginsberg is the as the recipient of the 2010 Larry Eckholt Award and James Kern will receive the 2010 Cultural Advocate Award.

The Eckholt Award is for a community member in the southern part of the Corridor, while the Cultural Advocate Award is intended for a member of the northern part of the Corridor. All 150 partners of ICCA were given the opportunity to nominate individuals for the honors. Final voting was completed by the ICCA board.

Both awards will be presented during the 2011 ICCA Annual Meeting and Icky Honors, an event created to elevate the awareness of the artistic and cultural organizations in the Corridor and to celebrate excellence in innovation in programming and events of ICCA partners over the past year. It will be held at The Englert Theatre on Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Ginsberg, president and owner of M.C. Ginsberg, is well known

throughout the Corridor, founding the Iowa City Jazz Festival and serving as one of the leaders in Iowa City's "Tickle My Keys" program, which placed pianos throughout downtown Iowa City for tourists and community members to play. Most recently, M.C. Ginsberg was named one of the 10 Best Companies Supporting the Arts in America by Americans for the Arts.

Mr. Kern, executive director of Bruce More, has directed some 85 productions for high schools, Theatre Cedar Rapids, and the Chicago City Theatre Co., is founder and principal artistic director for the Classics at Bruce More and former director of development for Theatre Cedar Rapids.

Artist proposals for Book Marks project due Jan. 14

The deadline for artists' proposals for Book Marks, a public art project designed to celebrate reading, writing, and literature, is Jan. 14. Iowa City's public art program is soliciting creative design ideas from artists and designers for the project.

The Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature and the Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty public libraries last month kicked off the Book Marks program, which, similar to the "Herky on Parade" public art program of 2004, will convert more than 50 plain white statues of books into unique pieces of art which will then be displayed outdoors throughout Johnson County from June through October 2011.

The deadline to submit proposals is 4 p.m. Jan. 14. Artists whose concepts are selected by a sponsor will receive a \$1,000 honorarium after their work is completed and approved.

Proceeds from the program will fund the Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature's outreach activities, the Iowa City Public Library's early childhood literacy efforts, the Coralville Public Library's programming and collections and the North Liberty Community Library's expansion and renovation.

For more information, visit www.bookmarksia.org. Calls about submissions can be directed to (319) 356-5237 or e-mailed to marcia-bollinger@iowa-city.org.



KWWL HEADLINES

A patient at a Linn County care facility is in the hospital this morning after an armed standoff. Linn County sheriff's deputies were called to the Abbe Center for Community Care on County Home Road shortly after 11 Tuesday night. They said a patient who had been out on a pass had returned with a gun. Staff members moved patients away from the danger while negotiators talked with the man. Just after 1:30 this morning, they say the man went outside where he shot himself. He was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.



Cedar Rapids plans to cut down more than 300 ash trees to head off an infestation of the emerald ash borer. City officials said Tuesday the trees will be removed over the next three months. The adult beetles are relative harmless, but the larvae drill into trees and destroy them. The insect is native to eastern Asia and was found in the United States near Detroit in 2002. It was found in Allamakee County in northeast Iowa last year. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources recommends each community determine the health of its ash trees, and if some are dying or in poor condition, to replace them with other varieties. About three dozen ash trees have already been removed from the Iowa State campus in Ames.

A Cedar Rapids motel operator was ordered to bring in exterminators after a family complained to Linn County officials about bedbugs in the rooms. Jackie Tyne said she found bedbugs in her room at the Collins Inn & Suites after guests in a room across the hall found some. Ms. Tyne said she wants a refund for her room and others her family rented for a New Year's Eve get-together. But she says the motel management refused. She complained to Linn County about the bugs. The county found enough evidence to order the motel to call in an exterminator. Motel owner Ashock Parikh said Tuesday the county and exterminators found problems in just two of his 36 rooms.

KWWL WEATHER

A series of disturbances will track through the region for the next few days. Each will bring a chance of light snow to the state, but moisture will be limited, so new snowfall should total to only an inch or so. It will be fairly mild today with highs from 26 to 37 but cold air streams in tomorrow with highs only 17 to 28. More light snow and flurries are possible Friday with mainly dry weather expected for Saturday. Highs will be in the teens with lows around zero as very cold air streams in from Polar regions. More active weather heads our way for next week. A chance of snow continues starting late on Sunday and continuing into Tuesday.

Go to www.kwwl.com for your storm TRACK 7 forecast.

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